

and feel honored to call him my pastor, a friend, a teacher, and an inspiration. Likewise, I have been a member of Mount Zion Baptist Church for 13 years and have found it to be a Christian fellowship of love in action through service to mankind.

Dr. Simmons is a great many things to a great many people. Since I joined Mount Zion in 1996, I have come to know him as a man of character, an humanitarian, a bridge builder, a shepherd, and a leader. Above all, "Pastor Simmons," as he is known, through his own humble and morally strong existence, helps us, as followers of the Word, to strive toward the Spiritual fulfillment graciously offered to us by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As the Word says in Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." Pastor Simmons has truly lived by this principle. Since his arrival at Mount Zion in 1991, he has sought to implement the church's mission to be a "vibrant church that reaches the world for Christ through evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, and missions."

Under his leadership, the church has grown to 2,700 members and counting. Financial stewardship has increased substantially. In July of 2008, the church broke ground on a new 67,000 square foot facility to provide the space necessary to continue building upon Pastor Simmons' vision and the church's mission. With all this growth and expansion, it is abundantly clear that God is doing great work at Mount Zion Baptist Church through the ministry of Pastor Simmons.

With ordained leadership and divine grace, Pastor Simmons has built a church that delivers God's message and works daily to implement God's vision. Pastor Simmons personifies the love of God through his teaching and his way of life. I thank him for his years of service to his parishioners, the Albany community, Georgia's Second Congressional District, and the Nation. Moreover, I wish him many more fruitful years to come.

I also recognize and celebrate the body of Christ which is the Mount Zion Baptist Church on the occasion of its 144th anniversary. May it forever utilize the blessings of great leadership and bountiful resources with which it has been provided to the Glory of Almighty God.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
PAUL BURGESS FAY, JR.

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and work of a distinguished American, a friend and an American hero, Paul Burgess "Red" Fay Jr., who passed away on September 23, 2009, at the age of 91. He leaves his beloved wife, Anita, to whom he was married for 62 years; his children Paul Fay III, Katherine Fay and Sally Fay Cottingham; and seven grandchildren.

Mr. Fay, a fourth-generation San Franciscan, was born in San Francisco in 1918 to a distinguished family. His father, Paul B. Fay Sr., was President of the Fay Improvement Company, a paving contracting firm founded in 1875, and gave young Paul the nickname "Red" as a child, which his friends called him

for the rest of his life. He graduated from Stanford University in 1941 with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and he enlisted in the Navy shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor brought the United States into World War II.

It was during his service in the Navy that Mr. Fay met and became friends with President John F. Kennedy. In 1942, after attending Officer Training School, Mr. Fay was assigned to PT boat training in Melville, Rhode Island, where the future President was his instructor. They met during a touch football game. They were later assigned to the same base in the South Pacific and became friends after both of their boats were damaged. President Kennedy's PT-109 was attacked in an event that made him a war hero, and Mr. Fay's boat was struck by a torpedo, after which he was awarded a Bronze Star. While their ships were temporarily out of action, they roomed together in a small Quonset hut and became fast and lasting friends.

After the war, Mr. Fay returned to San Francisco and joined the family business. In 1947, he married the love of his life, Anita Marquez of Mill Valley. He remained close with John F. Kennedy and became a political supporter and a trusted adviser in his inner circle, working on his election campaigns for the House of Representatives, Senate, and the Presidency. When John Kennedy was elected President in 1960, he appointed Mr. Fay Under Secretary of the Navy, an office he held until January 1965.

After leaving Washington, Mr. Fay returned to the Bay Area and the family business, which he sold and later resurrected as a financial consulting and business ventures firm. He wrote a best-selling book, "The Pleasure of His Company," a memoir of his close friendship with the late President Kennedy. He became a founding partner of William Hutchinson & Co., an investment research and brokerage firm, and he was for many years a director of First American Financial and Vestaur Securities. He retired from business in 2005.

Among Mr. Fay's many social and charitable activities was his work with Youth Tennis Advantage, a Bay Area organization that helps teach tennis to at-risk youth. He also contributed his time to such charitable causes as the Robert Odell Foundation, the Robert F. Kennedy Foundation, and the American Ireland Fund, whose San Francisco Chapter named him "Man of the Year" in 1995. He was a trustee of the Naval War College Foundation and of Mount St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth of San Francisco, and he was a member of the Pacific Union Club, Bohemian Club, Burlingame Country Club, Chevy Chase Club, California Tennis Club and the Vintage in Indian Wells, California.

Mr. Fay was an extraordinary host, an accomplished master of ceremonies and indefatigable organizer of everything from charities to family touch-football games. An accomplished athlete, he played baseball at Stanford and enjoyed tennis and golf well into his eighties. He was a central figure in Bay Area society whose warmth and charm never failed to draw others to him, and he had hundreds of friends from all walks of life. He was a man of great integrity and everyone who knew him came away a better person.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring a national treasure and an extraordinary American,

Paul Burgess "Red" Fay, and in extending my deepest sympathy to his entire family during this difficult time. He represented the best of America and his decades of contributions to his family and friends, his community and his country stand as lasting legacies of a life lived exceedingly well. How privileged I am to have known him, to represent him and to have had him as my friend. He loved his community and his country and he served both with distinction, making our Nation a better place for generations to come.

HONORING THE DANVILLE-ALAMO
BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF UNIVERSITY
WOMEN ON ITS FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I am honored to congratulate the Danville-Alamo Branch of the American Association of University Women on its 40th Anniversary. The chapter has a proud history serving the community by supporting political, social, professional, and educational opportunities for women.

Through the chapter's work, Danville and Alamo benefit from stimulating speakers and programs, candidates' nights, and community service opportunities. The AAUW Danville-Alamo Branch has been active in local schools, enhancing educational opportunities in the arts, music, languages, science, and math. The branch also started a local Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Mathematics conference to expose middle school girls to careers in math and science. The Danville-Alamo Branch also helps girls achieve the dream of a college education through its scholarship programs.

Today, the Danville-Alamo Branch has more than 200 members. These members continue to serve the community and advance a wide range of issues that affect women and girls. I wish you a heartfelt congratulations on 40 years of changing lives and making a difference for women.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE BUDGET
REFORM AND TRANSPARENCY
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. R. 1016—To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide new discretionary budget authority for certain medical care accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs. This bill would ensure sufficient, timely, and predictable veterans funding so that the Department of Veterans Affairs would have the Federal funding to better serve veterans' medical needs and improve health care services. This is a very timely and important measure as many of our troops today are returning

home in need of accessible and adequate health care services. Therefore, I strongly commend my colleague BOB FILNER for bringing this measure before the floor.

This bill provides for a new two-fiscal-year discretionary budget authority for three critical accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs: medical services, medical support and compliance, and medical facilities. Accordingly, this measure will give the Department of Veterans Affairs sufficient time to effectively plan how it will deliver the best care to a growing number of veterans with increasingly complex medical conditions. And to ensure that the funds are being used appropriately, H.R. 1016 requires the United States Comptroller General to conduct a study to determine the adequacy and accuracy of the department's budget model projections.

My military constituents often turn to me for support in confronting the many challenges they face when working with the Department of Veterans Affairs. We have come to understand, that many of the challenges in efficient health care services are attributable to the Department of Veterans Affairs' inadequate funding. Over the last two decades, the appropriated funds for medical care have not been provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs in a timely manner. This has resulted in the department's problems in planning and managing care for enrolled veterans. Accordingly, this bill addresses this budgetary problem and allows for advance appropriations to ensure the department has the Federal backing to effectively address the medical needs of our Nation's veterans.

As a vocal advocate for veterans' rights, I am pleased to add my voice of support for H.R. 1016. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that we continue to provide the necessary resources towards improving our Department of Veterans Affairs' health care programs and administrative services.

THE FEDERAL BUDGET DEFICIT

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, the Federal budget deficit tripled to a record \$1.4 trillion for the 2009 fiscal year that ended last week, congressional analysts announced late yesterday.

According to the Congressional Budget Office this year's budget deficit is a level not witnessed since World War Two.

The deficit amounted to almost 10 percent of the nation's economy, triple the size of the shortfall for 2008.

While tax revenue fell by \$420 billion, or 17 percent, to the lowest level in more than 50 years, Federal spending rose by 18 percent.

Despite this sobering economic report, the White House and its allies in Congress continue to press ahead with health care overhaul legislation that could cost at least \$900 billion over the next decade.

How many alarm bells must be set off before Washington gets serious about tackling our ever-growing budget deficits?

HONORING REAR ADMIRAL WAYNE E. MEYER

HON. ERIC J.J. MASSA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. MASSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to laud the achievements, acumen, patriotism and long service to our country by RA Wayne E. Meyer, affectionately known as the "Father of AEGIS." His service to our Navy and our Nation has been continuous since his enlistment as a midshipman recruit in 1943. He is best known as the founding project manager of the AEGIS Shipbuilding Project, which began building AEGIS cruisers in 1978. AEGIS destroyers are still being constructed today, and remain the world's most formidable multi-mission warships. The cruisers and destroyers in our fleet today are the direct result of Rear Admiral Meyer's leadership and dedication to his country.

Admiral Meyer's life began far from the sea, in Brunswick, Missouri, in 1926. His family plowed the black earth in the "gumbo" region near the Missouri River, and, like so many other American families of that era, survived the Depression only through their determination and their indomitable spirit.

When the Nation went to war in 1941, Wayne Meyer was only 15. He continued his schooling, but only days after his 17th birthday, with his parent's written permission, he enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve to serve his country. After graduating high school as his class president and valedictorian, the Navy called him to active duty as an apprentice seaman, and sent him to the University of Kansas' engineering school—part of President Roosevelt's "V-12" program. After an accelerated and exhausting 32 months, Wayne Meyer earned a B.S. in electrical engineering. Later that month, in February 1946, he was commissioned an ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve, and sent to M.I.T. for further schooling in the nascent fields of radar and sonar. His schooling later included atomic weapons training, a further graduate degree in electrical engineering, a master's in aeronautics and astronautics from M.I.T., the Navy General Line School and certification as a Navy Ordnance Engineer.

His early years in the Navy were marked by extensive sea duty. He was ordered to Destroyer Radar Picket USS *Goodrich* (DDR 831), where he served as part of the occupation forces in the Mediterranean, service in the Greek civil war, and with part of the force supporting the creation of Israel in 1948. He was accepted for transfer to the regular Navy that year as well.

Meyer was next posted in Chinese waters, where his ship, the light gun cruiser *Springfield* (CL 66), was in the mouth of the Huangpu River when Chiang Kai-Shek's Nationalist forces fell to Mao's Red Army in March 1949. He returned home to serve on a number of ships on Fleet Staffs—twice deploying in the destroyer tender USS *Sierra* (AD 16). He patrolled the Distant Early Warning line (extended) off Newfoundland as Executive Officer in the Radar Picket *Strickland* (DER 333). After a return to shore for more schooling, he was ordered to the guided missile cruiser *Galveston* (CLG 3) as Fire Control Officer and subsequently Gunnery Officer for her conversion as the first Talos cruiser, where he

fired more Talos missiles than any other person. By the time he finished his sea duty, he'd served on seven ships and sailed the Pacific, Atlantic, and Mediterranean.

The next phase of Admiral Meyer's career was leading critical programs and facilities in the Navy's material establishment. In 1963 Secretary of the Navy Fred Korth chose then Commander Meyer to serve in the special Navy Task Force for the Surface Guided Missile Systems, under command of RADM Eli T. Reich, USN. His work at the Terrier missile system desk led to his appointment to lead the engineering effort to transition the entire Terrier fleet (30 ships) from analog to high speed digital systems. After turning down a destroyer command to continue this prelude to advanced weapons system design, he was appointed an Ordnance Engineering Duty Officer the same year he was selected for captain, 1966. He then served as the Chief Engineer at the Naval Ship Missile Systems Engineering Station, Port Hueneme, California. From this post he led the in-service engineering of the Navy's surface missile systems.

Ordered back to Washington in 1969, he became the AEGIS Weapons System Manager in the Bureau of Ordnance, the most important phase of his career. It was here that Meyer's lifetime operational and engineering experience was put to the test. It would also require him to exercise what many know to be his unparalleled genius—organization and communication.

Meyer's first major challenge was to make AEGIS work. That is—develop and test a new area air defense system to protect the fleet from aircraft and cruise missile attack. By virtue of his "double-hat" as the Director of Surface Missile Systems in NAVSEA, he was also charged with keeping the existing fleet of Terrier and Tartar ships capable against ever more sophisticated Soviet threats. Those who worked for Meyer in those early days knew him as untiring, relentless, and driven towards success. They also knew him to be the consummate engineer—demanding back-ups for risky technologies and redundancy to ensure his system would work under even the most demanding conditions. After a number of land-based tests, the AEGIS Weapon System prototype was installed in the USS *Norton Sound* in 1974 for at-sea testing. Two more years of development and testing, following Meyer's mantra, "build-a-little, test-a-little, learn a lot" led to "Super Sunday" in 1977, when AEGIS detected, tracked and engaged two targets simultaneously.

With such a powerful new weapon system in development, the Navy understood that it could be used for more than just air engagements, and in 1976 charged Meyer with developing the AEGIS Combat System. The combat system, which included the AEGIS Weapon System, would allow simultaneous multi-mission engagements against surface, air, and submarine targets, as well as strike capability. With his naval engineer's eye toward cautioned, prudent design, Meyer again demanded a stepwise approach to development, and thorough land-based testing before sending the system to sea.

With these combat and weapon systems under controlled development, Meyer's next major challenge was to "get AEGIS to Sea." Since the project began in 1969, the ship to carry AEGIS had been a hotly debated issue in the Navy, the Department of Defense, and